

## Nuclear Regulatory Commission

## § 2.752

### § 2.751 Hearings to be public.

Except as may be requested pursuant to section 181 of the Act, all hearings will be public unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

### § 2.751a Special prehearing conference in construction permit and operating license proceedings.

(a) In any proceeding involving an application for a construction permit or an operating license for a production or utilization facility, the Commission or the presiding officer will direct the parties and any petitioners for intervention, or their counsel, to appear at a specified time and place, within ninety (90) days after the notice of hearing is published, or such other time as the Commission or the presiding officer may deem appropriate, for a conference<sup>1a</sup> to:

(1) Permit identification of the key issues in the proceeding;

(2) Take any steps necessary for further identification of the issues;

(3) Consider all intervention petitions to allow the presiding officer to make such preliminary or final determination as to the parties to the proceeding, as may be appropriate; and

(4) Establish a schedule for further actions in the proceeding.

(b) The presiding officer may order any further informal conferences among the parties, including telephone conferences, to the extent that he considers that such a conference would expedite the proceeding.

(c) A prehearing conference held pursuant to this section may be stenographically reported.

(d) The presiding officer shall enter an order which recites the action taken at the conference, the schedule for further actions in the proceeding, any agreements by the parties, and which identifies the key issues in the proceeding, makes a preliminary or final determination as to the parties in the proceeding, and provides for the submission of status reports on discovery. The order shall be served upon all parties to the proceeding. Objections to

the order may be filed by a party within five (5) days after service of the order, except that the staff may file objections to such order within ten (10) days after service. Parties may not file replies to the objections unless the Board so directs. The filing of objections shall not stay the decision unless the presiding officer so orders. The board may revise the order in consideration of the objections presented and, as permitted by § 2.718(i), may certify for determination to the Commission such matters raised in the objections as it deems appropriate. The order shall control the subsequent course of the proceeding unless modified for good cause.

[37 FR 15135, July 28, 1972, as amended at 43 FR 17802, Apr. 26, 1978; 46 FR 30331, June 8, 1981]

### § 2.752 Prehearing conference.

(a) The Commission or the presiding officer may, and in the case of a proceeding on an application for a construction permit or an operating license for a facility of a type described in §§ 50.21(b) or 50.22 of this chapter or a testing facility, shall direct the parties or their counsel to appear at a specified time and place for a conference to consider:

(1) Simplification, clarification, and specification of the issues;

(2) The necessity or desirability of amending the pleadings;

(3) The obtaining of stipulations and admissions of fact and of the contents and authenticity of documents to avoid unnecessary proof;

(4) Identification of witnesses and the limitation of the number of expert witnesses, and other steps to expedite the presentation of evidence;

(5) The setting of a hearing schedule; and

(6) Such other matters as may aid in the orderly disposition of the proceeding.

A prehearing conference held under this section in a proceeding involving a construction permit or operating license shall be held within sixty (60)

<sup>1a</sup> This conference may be omitted in proceedings other than contested proceedings.

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days after discovery has been completed,<sup>1</sup> or such other time as the Commission or the presiding officer may specify.

(b) Prehearing conferences may be stenographically reported.

(c) The presiding officer shall enter an order which recites the action taken at the conference, the amendments allowed to the pleadings and agreements by the parties, and which limits the issues or defines the matters in controversy to be determined in the proceeding. Objections to the order may be filed by a party within five (5) days after service of the order, except that the regulatory staff may file objections to such order within ten (10) days after service. Parties may not file replies to the objections unless the board so directs. The filing of objections shall not stay the decision unless the presiding officer so orders. The board may revise the order in the light of the objections presented and, as permitted by § 2.718(i) may certify for determination to the Commission such matters raised in the objections as it deems appropriate. The order shall control the subsequent course of the proceeding unless modified for good cause.

[27 FR 377, Jan. 13, 1962, as amended at 37 FR 15136, July 28, 1972; 40 FR 8777, Mar. 3, 1975; 46 FR 30331, June 8, 1981]

## § 2.753 Stipulations.

Apart from any stipulations made during or as a result of a prehearing conference, the parties may stipulate in writing at any stage of the proceeding or orally during the hearing, any relevant fact or the contents or authenticity of any document. Such a stipulation may be received in evidence. The parties may also stipulate as to the procedure to be followed in the proceeding. Such stipulations may, on motion of all parties, be recognized

<sup>1</sup>Discovery, as used in this section, does not include the production of the ACRS report, the safety evaluation prepared by the regulatory staff, or any detailed statement on environmental considerations prepared by the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation or Director of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, as appropriate or his designee in the proceeding pursuant to part 51 of this chapter.

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by the presiding officer to govern the conduct of the proceeding.

[37 FR 15136, July 28, 1972]

## § 2.754 Proposed findings and conclusions.

(a) Any party to a proceeding may, or if directed by the presiding officer shall, file proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, briefs and a proposed form or order of decision within the time provided by the following subparagraphs, except as otherwise ordered by the presiding officer:

(1) The party who has the burden of proof shall, within thirty (30) days after the record is closed, file proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law and briefs, and a proposed form of order or decision.

(2) Other parties may file proposed findings, conclusions of law and briefs within forty (40) days after the record is closed. However, the staff may file such proposed findings, conclusions of law and briefs within fifty (50) days after the record is closed.

(3) A party who has the burden of proof may reply within five (5) days after filing of proposed findings and conclusions of law and briefs by other parties.

(b) Failure to file proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law or briefs when directed to do so may be deemed a default, and an order or initial decision may be entered accordingly.

(c) Proposed findings of fact must be clearly and concisely set forth in numbered paragraphs and must be confined to the material issues of fact presented on the record, with exact citations to the transcript of record and exhibits in support of each proposed finding. Proposed conclusions of law must be set forth in numbered paragraphs as to all material issues of law or discretion presented on the record. An intervenor's proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law must be confined to issues which that party placed in controversy or sought to place in controversy in the proceeding.

[27 FR 377, Jan. 13, 1962, as amended at 28 FR 10154, Sept. 17, 1963; 35 FR 11459, July 17, 1970; 43 FR 17802, Apr. 26, 1978; 46 FR 30331, June 8, 1981; 54 FR 33182, Aug. 11, 1989]